

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – July 6, 2010**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Eric Ost, Suzann Owen, Jesse Strycker, Duane Busick

II. Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of June business meeting minutes, a motion was made by Suzann Owen to accept the minutes, and seconded by Duane Busick. All approved the motion. No corrections/additions.

III. Public Comment and Reports –

Leeanna Jeffers

- Mrs. Jeffers was disgruntled by the way the new digital alerts blacked out her screen. She feels that the system would much better if there was just a ticker running across the bottom of the screen. She agrees that alerts are important, but it messes up the programming.
- Carl – Received a call from the Herald Times about this problem. He did some research and talked with Jim Cumerford, and found that some things the council had been working on were no longer accurate. County dispatch no longer interrupts for anything. EAS are generated by the state or national weather service. These interrupts are required by federal law. It shouldn't be happening the way you describe.
- Duane – Who did you call and what was the response you received?
- Mrs. Jeffers – Comcast, it was just a standard response. The people were from Canada, not local.
- Suzann – What type of service do you have thru Comcast?
- Mrs. Jeffers – Digital
- Carl – Suggested that she write a letter to the IURC, and inform them of the problem. If you would be please keep us informed about what you learn or don't learn, would be appreciated.

Lennon Beasley – Community Producer for CATS

- Produced 60 programs in June
- Romance Avenue just aired last week.
- Everything that is Beautiful is back again
- Mr. Beasley has produced 941 programs over 4 years for CATS.

IV. Reports and Announcements

1. Telecommunication Council Members:

Suzann commented that the FCC still has no dealings with any video service issues. The focus is still primarily network neutrality and internet matters.

2. City ITS Department – Rick Dietz

- Announced the BDU Advisory meeting, August 5th in City Hall at 4pm.
- ITS is also paying attention to what the FCC is doing, and are equally disappointed that issues with video service not being addressed..
- Rick Dietz was a part of a training session for the County EOC (Emergency Operations Center). It was mention due to the fact that communication and tele-communication do intersect quite often in emergency management.
- IU'S Global Network Operating System being party to a large stimulus grant from the federal government for establishing expansion of a network.

Strategic Planning Project – Ralph Riser, consultant on the project

- The section on the recommendations to CATS and the city in terms of technology and operational upgrades and changes. Also a section on reviewing partnerships with video service providers. There is a completed survey of audiences. Lastly, a section on longer range projects. The project is about 90% completed.
- Duane – Why does the report deal so much with only a part of the Monroe County Library, it seems to have nothing to do with the city.
- Ralph – Yes, it does, but as a consultant it is part of my job to recommend various options to the city. One way is to continue the way it is or look at other options or arrangements. It would be up to the policymakers.
- Duane – The Bloomington Digital Underground & Telecom Hotel were not dealt with very much at all.

- Ralph – The digital underground is not ready for public consumption. The BDU serves as a backbone for connectivity so it depends on which way you go to share activity. It could also serve as an infer-structure, to enhance additional things.
- Eric – * Complemented the work
 - The city provides 17% of the PEG content. PEG operators are not completely free from political influence.
 - There is a lot of direction that the city needs to take in relation to CATS.
 - Due to the fact that we haven't had a chance to digest the whole document. The council should schedule a work session with you to discuss the plan in depth.
- Carl -- There was a big emphasis put on CATS, the comments were positive.
 - Suggestions for re-organizing the relationship are vague.
 - Are we considering the impact of the change in this relationship, (funding and governing), and how CATS functions as a part of the community?
 - CATS isn't the only PEG provider, how has WTIU, and CATS been a part of this process? What were the thoughts on these changes in the relationship?
- Ralph – These are just options for re-structuring and growing CATS to be an independent entity. The goal was to look PEG operations and see if it was viable for it to become independent. Meetings with CATS have been extensive. There was a meeting with WTIU in which programming was discussed, as well as tour of the facility. WTIU sees themselves has their own environment. There are two PEG operators one as one channel the other operates the rest. This report does pertain more to CATS.
- Carl – What makes me uneasy, if we are not careful we are going to re-visit some control issues that I thought we might be passed.
- Ralph – There are always going to be issues of control even if it becomes independent. By being more independent it would be more out in the open.
- Eric – The best thing the city can do is be a light handed partner and let the leadership of CATS do what they know how to do. Funding comes from franchise fees, which are always in question.
- Duane – Did you study other PEG facilities from around the country?
- Ralph – Yes, Berkley would be one example. CATS has a well-developed platform.
- Duane – Why did you not spend any time on CATS staying with MCPL and how the city could work with them?
- Ralph – That is one of the options, but I don't see a great deal of opportunity there.
- Rick – The report suggests how the partners that support CATS can come together to help CATS grow and become stronger and more independent.
- Jesse – Is there a methodology that will be explained on how the data was gathered, what was the random sampling?
- Ralph – The introduction states how the research was conducted. It was people who truly wanted to give their opinions about the subject.
- Suzann – Was this project publically funded?
- Rick – Yes, from the franchise fees.
- Suzann – Who had the oversight on this project to give approval and its funding?
- Rick – I did with support from the mayor on the contract.
- Suzann - The information that is obtained on this project will be available to any citizen.
- Rick – Yes
- Motion was made by Duane for a work session to be held in the McClosky Room on Wednesday, July 14th at 6pm. Jesse seconded the motion.
Discussion: The council would like to see Rick and Ralph present to explain the report to the council. The council would appreciate a structure of the report that can be grasped. A complete copy of the report is requested before the work session.
- Eric – Is there a plan for more public involvement as this process moves on?
- Rick – Yes, It's potential recommendation is how we can better provide services.
- Carl – I would request that we have the work session taped.
- Duane – called for the question, all moved to approve the motion.

3. CATS – Michael White

- Monthly programming
- There was an article in the paper on the winning prize that the children's department at the library received. The video of this will be shown at the end of the meeting.
- Suzann- There was 3 programs that you have taped but I cannot find any information on the website as to when they air or at what time. Do you have any type of notification system that I could request the information for those programs?
- Michael – The best way would be to contact us directly by calling or emailing.
- Suzann- On the website, in your most frequently asked question section, most of the questions are directed toward citizen produced programming rather than viewing questions?
- Michael – Good point will make a note.
- Michael- I've also been playing phone tag with the folks at Comcast in Fisher on getting more information about a possible migration of PEG to the digital tier.
- Jesse- Has CATS ever covered the fireworks?
- Michael – We have lots of people who send us footage but we do not cover the fireworks.

4. WTIU – Phil Meyer – No Report

V. Information from or about Video Service Provider

- Suzann- Major Change coming in September from the largest video service provider, Comcast. A great deal of confusion is coming from citizens about what they are to do with the digital equipment if they are a Comcast subscriber. We have a responsibility to educate the public about what is forthcoming. I would like the council to request that a representative from Comcast come to our September meeting and do a question and answer about the new changes. Possibly citizens could submit question early.
- Carl - Video service providers do not want to have anything to do with telecommunications councils. How do we structure the invitation?
- Suzann- I will write something out for you. I motion that we set aside a segment of the September meeting for digital network enhancement needs.
- Jesse – Seconded the motion
- No comments or discussion. Question was called, and all approved.

VI. Old Business

Report to City Council – Still in process.

EAS – Investigating a method that National Weather Service can assist us in with local emergencies and turning them into the type of signal that both local media and cable would carry as an override. Central dispatch would control the nature of the call and the text.

- Duane – Is there a need for equipment need that central dispatch has to have to help facilitate this?
- Carl – It would all be done thru the National Weather Service. The system is already in place.
- Suzann – Are you saying there are two different types of alert systems? One for tornadoes and major storms, and another for other alerts like snipers.
- Carl – Yes
- Suzann – Is there a difference in the delivery of weather alerts on standard definition versus high definition when there are overrides?
- Carl - No

PEG Channels-

VII. New Business

Duane - We would like to congratulate Zack Connelly the producer of the video we are going to see.

VIII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

August 3rd, 2010

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 7-27-2010